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1992/03/13



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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9964
INFO ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY BEIJING

SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 03784

FOR NEA/IAI KESSLER, PM/P AXELGARD, PM/DRSA TINSLEY;
PM/DTC DIXON

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR
TAGS: PARM, MCPA, MASS, ETTC, IS, US, CI
SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS OF GOI TRANSFER OF PATRIOT
- TECHNOLOGY TO CHINA

1. (C) SUMMARY: ALLEGATIONS OF GOI PATRIOT TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TO CHINA HAVE HIT THE ISRAELI MEDIA. GOI SPOKESMEN HAVE ISSUED FIRM DENIALS. THREE SOURCES -- A DOVISH ANALYST, A PRO-GOI STRATEGIST ISRAELI, AND A MOD OFFICIAL -- THOUGHT THE CHARGES UNTRUE, BUT THEY AGREED

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THAT, IF CONFIRMED, THE ACT WOULD HAVE BEEN
EXCEPTIONALLY STUPID. ONE SUGGESTED THAT THE STORY IN
THE "WASHINGTON TIMES," MAY HAVE BEEN LEAKED BY A LOW
LEVEL USG ANALYST WHO HAD ALLOWED HIS JUDGMENT TO BE
CLOUDED BY TENSIONS IN THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.
CONTACTS WERE CONCERNED OVER THE IMPACT OF THE STORY.
END COMMENT.

PATRIOT STORY HITS THE WIRES

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DEPT. OF STATE APPEALS REVIEW PANEL (ARP)

EOIA/PA	Mandatory Review
() Release	() Declassify
() Exclude	() Declassify in Part
() Deny	() Class. Ref/Renew

Exemptions B1

ARP Action Cert ff Date FEB 21 1983

United States Department of State
Office of FOI, Privacy, & Classification Review
Review Authority: GEHRON, W.
Date: 04/15/96
Case ID: 9201601

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[REDACTED]

2. (U) ALL ISRAELI MEDIA MARCH 13 HEADLINED THE WASHINGTON TIMES STORY OF ALLEGED U.S. ACCUSATIONS THAT ISRAEL HAS SUPPLIED PATRIOT MISSILES OR TECHNOLOGY TO CHINA, TOGETHER WITH A DENIAL THEREOF BY MOD SPOKESMAN DANNY NAVEH, CHARACTERIZING IT AS "TOTALLY FALSE AND BASELESS," ACCORDING TO THE "JERUSALEM POST," AND "A BASELESS LIE," ACCORDING TO THE "VOICE OF ISRAEL" RADIO. THE "POST" CITED REUTERS REPORTS OF UNIDENTIFIED "NYC JEWISH SOURCES" EXPLAINING THE LEAK AS A RESPONSE TO SECRETARY BAKER'S ALLEGED INSULT TO JEWISH VOTERS.

OPPOSITION REACTION: "TOO DUMB TO BE TRUE ..."

3. (C) [REDACTED], A [REDACTED] RESEARCH ASSOCIATE [REDACTED] TOLD POLOFF MARCH 13 THAT HE THOUGHT THE STORY WAS "BALONEY." "WE ISRAELIS DO ILLEGAL THINGS FROM TIME TO TIME, BUT THIS WOULD BE JUST TOO GROSS," HE SAID. [REDACTED] ADDED THAT THERE SEEMED TO

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BE A PATTERN: EACH TIME DEFMIN ARENS GOES TO THE U.S.,
"SOMETHING IS WAITING FOR HIM ..."

RIGHTIST ANALYST DOWNPLAYS THE STORY

4. (C) [REDACTED] A LIKUD-ORIENTED STRATEGIC THINKER [REDACTED] DESCRIBED THE AFFAIR AS "ARENS GETTING A PIE IN THE FACE." HE CLAIMED THAT WHEN ARENS PREVIOUSLY MET AS FORMIN WITH SECRETARY BAKER, ARENS WOULD BE SURPRISED THE NEXT DAY BY DESCRIPTIONS OF HIS CONVERSATIONS IN THE PRESS OR IN CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY. [REDACTED] SAID THAT MOST ISRAELIS HOPED THE STORY WAS NOT TRUE, BUT IF IT WERE, IT WAS "STUPID, HORRIBLE, AND THOSE RESPONSIBLE ARE FOOLS." HE THOUGHT IT REFLECTED EXISTING TENSIONS IN GOI-USG RELATIONS, AND WAS AN INTENTIONAL LEAK -- NOT NECESSARILY HIGH LEVEL -- BUT PERHAPS BY SOME ANALYST DOWN IN THE "BOILER ROOM." [REDACTED] SAW A PATTERN: WHEN THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE TOP OF GOI-USG RELATIONS IS NOT GOOD, TENSION RADIATES

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[REDACTED]
TOWNHARD. COLORING THE ATTITUDES OF UNDERLINGS. [REDACTED]
OBSERVED THAT TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ISSUES REQUIRE
MEETINGS BY TEAMS OF EXPERTS TO THRASH OUT WHERE ONE
COUNTRY'S TECHNOLOGY ENDS AND ANOTHER'S BEGINS. [REDACTED]
SAW ISRAEL AS BEING SINGLED OUT, CLAIMING FOR EXAMPLE
THAT A LOT OF "DIRT" ON JORDAN AND EGYPT THESE DAYS GOES
UNNOTICED.

MOD OFFICIAL CALLS IT A CANARD

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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5. (C) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ALSO THOUGHT THERE WAS
NOTHING IN THE STORY. "IT WOULD BE STUPID" FOR THE GOI
TO DO ANYTHING OF THE SORT, HE REPEATED, AND SAID HE DID
NOT REMEMBER HEARING SUCH A FLAT, STRONG DENIAL IN A
LONG TIME. HE NOTED THAT THE CHINESE HAD ALSO
OFFICIALLY DENIED IT. "I'M AFRAID THIS STORY IS WHAT
OUR ISRAELI JOURNALISTS CALL A 'DUCK'," HE SAID.

6. (C) COMMENT: DESPITE THEIR SKEPTICISM, WE SENSE AN
UNDERCURRENT OF NERVOUSNESS IN OUR ISRAELI CONTACTS.
SINCE VERY FEW HERE WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO SUCH
INFORMATION. THOUGHTFUL ISRAELIS HOPE IT IS NOT TRUE,
[REDACTED]

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ACTION NEA-0:

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AND FEAR PROBLEMS IN THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP IF IT
SHOULD BE. MEANWHILE, OUR USIS PRESS ATTACHE HAS
RECEIVED NO INQUIRIES FROM ISRAELIS. HARROP

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]

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